



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
March 8, 2011

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent about 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

HB 6526 "An Act Concerning Brownfield Remediation and Development as an Economic Driver."

This bill is a positive step toward encouraging brownfield remediation and redevelopment - ***by providing liability relief and other incentives to brownfield landowners and redevelopers.*** When greater resources and emphasis is placed on identifying and remediating brownfields, there is less pressure to utilize "greenfields" for the next building project.

CCM has long been a supporter of measures that would help clean up, and put back into productive use, blighted or contaminated brownfield properties. Brownfield remediation is an important part of Connecticut's efforts to 1) spur development in places where the infrastructure to support it already exists, 2) improve blighted areas, 3) limit sprawl and preserve open space in outlying areas, and 4) clean up our environment.

However, this bill ***would also create barriers for brownfield remediation and redevelopment*** - which appears counter to the intent of the bill - by limiting access to the program through stricter eligibility requirements and a set number of projects per year. While CCM understands the fiscal limitations of any program, care must be taken in limiting the scope and thus slowing down remediation of contamination in Connecticut. In addition, these new limitations are contradictory to the mission of the stakeholders involved - which is that cleaning up any brownfield, no matter its size or location, is a positive step towards improving the state's economy and environment.

CCM supports the spirit of the proposal - to remediate and develop brownfields - however ***asks that the committee amend this bill to eliminate the language that places limits on the program*** before taking any action on it.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Associate of CCM
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